



DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is the main source of research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.

New on the Web **Population-Interaction Zones for Agriculture**

This data product provides information useful for projecting future changes in land use. ERS has created a system to classify farmland into "population-interaction zones for agriculture" (PIZA).

www.ers.usda.gov/Data/PopulationInteractionZones

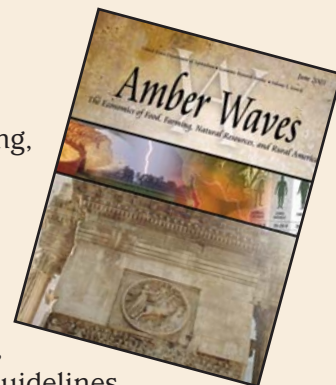
Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Amber Waves June 2005

Amber Waves magazine covers the full range of ERS research and analysis, including articles on food, farming, natural resources, and rural America.

www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves



Will 2005 Be the Year of the Whole Grain?

Will Americans eat more whole grains in 2005?

According to the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the answer is likely yes. For the first time, the Dietary Guidelines have specific recommendations for whole grain consumption separate from those for refined grains. The Guidelines, released in January 2005, encourage all Americans over 2 years old to eat at least three 1-ounce-equivalent servings of whole grains each day, or roughly half of their recommended 5 to 10 daily servings of grains, depending on calorie needs.

Obesity Policy and the Law of Unintended Consequences

Action to combat obesity and overweight could come in many forms since many variables influence diet and lifestyle choices. While economics tells us that prices and income shape choices, other factors are important, too. Individuals choose foods based on taste, convenience, family structure and traditions, age, health status, knowledge, and lifestyle.

North America Moves Toward One Market

Focus too much on the challenging issues that have faced North American agriculture over the past several years and you might not notice an important long-term development: the agricultural economies of Canada, Mexico, and the United States are increasingly behaving as if they form one market.

Why Hasn't Crop Insurance Eliminated Disaster Assistance?

Agricultural production is inherently risky. Poor weather, pests, and diseases can reduce production levels. Americans have long supported government aid to farmers and ranchers facing such adverse events, though the best form of assistance has been open to debate.

Conservation Programs for Working Land

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ERR5/

The 2002 Farm Act increased conservation funding and earmarked most of the increase for working-land payment programs (WLPPs) rather than land retirement. Design and implementation of WLPPs will largely determine the extent to which environmental goals are achieved and are cost effective. ***Flexible Conservation Measures on Working Land*** examines a range of design options and discusses each in terms of environmental benefits and economic considerations.

The Economics of Crop Genetic Resources

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/eib2/

Crop genetic resources are the basis of agricultural production. But private incentives for conservation may fall short of maintaining the genetic diversity essential to reducing vulnerability to pests and disease. **Crop Genetic**

Resources: An Economic Appraisal examines the role of genetic resources, genetic diversity, and efforts to value and conserve genetic resources.



Farm Policy—A Long View

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/eib3/

The structure of farms, farm households, and the rural communities in which they exist has evolved markedly over the last century. **The 20th Century Transformation of U.S. Agriculture and Farm Policy** analyzes a wide range of historical data related to farm structure over the past century, provides some perspective on long-term forces that have shaped agricultural and rural life, and reviews key developments in farm policy.

Preferences to Developing Countries

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR6



Nonreciprocal trade preference programs originated in the 1970s as an effort by high-income developed countries to provide tariff concessions for low-income countries. **Agricultural Trade Preferences and the Developing Countries** analyzes detailed trade and tariff data for the

United States and the European Union (the two largest nonreciprocal preference donors) to determine the extent to which the programs have increased exports from beneficiary countries.

North American Market Integration in the Animal Products Sector Examined

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ldp/may05/ldpm13101/

The beef, pork, and poultry industries of Mexico, Canada, and the United States have tended to become more economically integrated over the past two decades. Sanitary barriers continue to be an issue, as do concerns about diseases such as BSE. **Market Integration of the North American Animal Products Complex** reviews the progress towards live-stock and meat market integration among the United States, Canada, and Mexico, with a special eye on the impacts that sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers have had on the further integration of the markets in the three countries.

Price Premiums for Organic Produce Remain Strong

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/vgs/may05/VGS30801/

Price premiums for organic products have contributed to growth in certified organic farmland and, ultimately, market expansion. Fresh produce has long been an important component of the organic food sector and a significant contributor to the organic industry's growth over the last decade. **Price Premiums Hold on as U.S. Organic Produce Market Expands** explores price premiums and market margins for carrots, broccoli, and mesclun mix.

For the underlying data in the report, see **Organic Farmgate and Wholesale Prices** at

www.ers.usda.gov/Data/OrganicPrices/.

How to get more information ...

More information about the items featured in **Dateline ERS** can be found at our Website: www.ers.usda.gov by typing in the listed URL address. This newsletter is also available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news